

In the discussion of protoplasmic structure we would like to have seen included some reference to the important work on micro-dissection of living cells, which is a field of illuminating promise. Also in his consideration of the incidence of amitosis we think the author is too generous. Many types of nuclear division in the Protista which were formerly considered amitotic are now more accurately described under the terms promitosis and mesomitosis. Again, the discussion of fertilisation and artificial parthenogenesis might well have included reference to the experiments of Lillie on the agglutination of sperm and the points of view arising therefrom. These, however, are but minor defects in a well-balanced treatment of the subject, set forth in stimulating and convincing argumentative form. Such a treatment, from one who has contributed largely to the subjects of which he writes, will be of great service in widening both the biological and lay interest in cell structure and function and the problems connected therewith.

The publishers' price we consider high, taking account of the size of the book and the character of the illustrations—even in these days of enhanced prices.

The unfortunate death of the distinguished author since this was written is a serious loss to the science to which he contributed so much. But it is a happy circumstance that he has left behind a work which summarises the many advances of recent years and will long be a monument to his incisive and careful thinking on subjects related to heredity and cell structure.

R. R. G.

**Dubash, P. S. G., D.Sc., DR.-ES-SC., etc.** *Hygiene of Town Planning and Vegetation*. London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd.; 1919; price 3s.; pp. 127.

THIS little book is a valuable survey of the problems affecting town planning from the hygienic point of view. A Vice-President of the Eugenics Education Society, Sir John Cockburn, contributes an interesting introduction. Part I. of the book deals with such topics as situations and soils; water, air, temperature, noxious bacteria in soil; over-crowding, types of dwelling-houses, street-making; and the economics of town planning. Part II. is entitled "Vegetation" and is full of useful suggestions for combating disease and promoting health by a proper attention to trees and plants. Dr. Dubash's style is throughout concise, practical and economical. He quotes numerous authorities, sometimes in support of rival theories or opinions; and the book would gain in value by the inclusion of a small bibliography. The experience of other countries is frequently given, and we hope that our town planners will not scorn to profit by the study of housing in recently enemy countries. Particularly helpful ideas for financing housing schemes come from Germany. It is obvious that the author writes with a varied and extensive knowledge, and at times he is apt to stray somewhat from his subject. The advocacy of cremation may be legitimate, but we do not know that the great idea of using the ashes of great men for making "tiny statuettes" of them, to be kept in "The National Museum of the Great Dead," is an important consideration in the hygiene of town planning. But the book is full of really good ideas, and because it is not exclusively concerned with English conditions and English experience, we recommend it all the more warmly to those interested in the housing of the people.

A. W. C.

**East, E. M., PH.D., AND Jones, D. F., Sc.D.** *Inbreeding and Outbreeding*. Lippincott; 1919; pp. 285.

THE effects and supposed effects of inbreeding appear to have been one of the earliest preoccupations of the human mind. The rule of exogamy widespread among savages, as well as the religious and legal restrictions upon the marriage of near kin, must have had their origin in experiences